SECOND OFFER :

54 bids were received for development of 7 medium sized fields and 14 small sized fields. Government of India has approved award of contract for one medium sized field Ratna-R-Series to M/s. Essar Oil India Ltd., India, and Premier Oil Pacific of U.K. Bids for 4 medium sized fields were rejected as these were not found upto the mark. The remaining bids are under consideration of Government and expected to be finalised shortly.

The medium-sized fields would be developed through joint ventures between Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGCL)/Oil India Limited (OIL) on the one hand and the private companies on the other. ONGC or OIL, as the case may be, have a 40% share in the venture. The small-sized fields would be developed by companies on their own, with no participation by ONGC/ OIL, under production sharing contracts signed by the companies with the Government of India. In both case, companies would also be required to bear their share of statutory levies like royalty, cess, etfc. Foreign companies involved in oil exploration would be levied income-tax at a fixed rate of 50% while Indian companies would be governed by the relevant provisions of the Income-tax. In addition private companies would share profit oil with the Government.

Multi Crore Scam in Jammu and Kashmir

4170. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Multi-crore scam in Kashmir" appearing in "The Indian Express", dated June 29, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the follow-up action being taken against guilty officials; and

(d) the preventive measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The matter has been thoroughly investigated by the State Crime Branch who have registered a case under Section(s) 420, 409, 468, 120-B, 471/RPC in March 1996. In pursuance of the said investigation, one Statistical Assistant has been arrested and interrogated. Some fraudulent allotment orders have also been seized and have been sent to Forensic Laboratory for expert opinion about the origin of the signatures/writings. The allotment orders pertain to different years. At this stage, when the investigation is in process, the exact quantum of funds involved in the said fraudulent allotment orders and the responsibility for complicity and culpability for alleged forgery and misappropriation has not yet been established. The case is being vigourously pursued by the State Government.

Light Rail System Project

4171. SHRI B. DHARMABIKSHAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the stage at which the Light Rail System Project of Hyderabad stands at present;

(b) the amount spent on it so far; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) With a view to introducing a Light Rail Transit System in the city of Hyderabad, a Joint Stock Company viz., Urban Mass Transit Company (UMTC) Ltd. under the Companies Act was registered in 1992 and an initial amount of Rs. 15 lakhs each was released by the Government of India, Government of Andhra Pradesh and Institutional Leasing and Financial Services Ltd. (IL&FS) towards the equity of the Company. Further sum of Rs. 7 crores was released by the Government of India as advance towards equity during 1993-94, subject to release a matching amount by the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the same purpose.

During 1994-95, UMTC invited "Expressions of interest from various national/international firms to execute the project on BOOT/Turn-key basis. The Company has short-Listed certain firms, thereafter. List of short-listed firms has been submitted to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for its approval. However, decision of the Government of Andhra Pradesh is still awaited.

(b) Amount spent, so far, is Rs. 81.55 lakhs.

(c) It is not possible to suggest a time for completion at this stage.

Human Development Index

4172. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have developed the machanism for Human Development Index on the lines of the UNDP;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have worked out Human Development Index for all the States; and